GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3649
ANSWERED ON:08.08.2017
Pollution Standards for Rivers
Dhotre Shri Sanjay Shamrao;Shewale Shri Rahul Ramesh;Singh Shri Satya Pal

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT, FORESTS AND CLIMATE CHANGE be pleased to state:

(a) the criteria/norms regarding standard level of water pollution for major rivers of the country set by the Government;

(b) whether the Government has conducted any study to check the water pollution vis-a-vis standard level of pollution of such rivers during each of the last three years and the current year;

(c) if so, the outcome thereof, State-wise and if not, the reasons therefor;

(d) whether the Government has received complaints against sugar mills and other operational factories for water pollution of rivers during the said period;

(e) if so, the details thereof, along with the action taken on such complaints, State-wise; and

(f) the other corrective steps taken by the Government to keep the pollution level of rivers within the prescribed norms/ criteria ?

Answer

MINISTER FOR ENVIRONMENT, FOREST AND CLIMATE CHANGE

(DR. HARSH VARDHAN)

(a) Primary Water Quality Criteria are based on the concept of "Designated Best Use", according to which water bodies are classified into five categories, namely, Drinking Water Source without conventional treatment but after disinfection; Outdoor bathing (organised); Drinking water source after conventional treatment and disinfection; Propagation of Wildlife and Fisheries; and Irrigation, industrial cooling, controlled waste disposal, based on criteria including, inter alia, total Coliforms, pH, Dissolved Oxygen, Biochemical Oxygen Demand (BOD), etc.

(b) and (c) Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) monitors water quality of 445 rivers across the country and has made long term assessment of water quality of rivers with respect to BOD, the indicator of organic pollution. As an outcome of this assessment, published in 2015, 302 polluted river stretches on 275 rivers have been identified. The State-wise number of stretches include 49 in Maharashtra, 28 in Assam, 21 in Madhya Pradesh, 20 in Gujarat, 17 in West Bengal, 15 in Karnataka, 13 in Kerala, 13 in Uttar Pradesh, 12 in Manipur, 12 in Odisha, 10 in Meghalaya, 9 in Jammu & Kashmir, 8 in Goa, 8 in Himachal Pradesh, 8 in Jharkhand, 8 in Rajasthan, 7 in Tamil Nadu, 7 in Telangana, 6 in Andhra Pradesh, 5 in Bihar, 5 in Chhattisgarh, 5 in Sikkim, 5 in Uttarakhand, 3 in Nagaland, 2 in Haryana, 2 in Punjab, 2 in Tripura, 1 in Daman & Diu and 1 in Delhi.

(d) and (e) CPCB has received 28 complaints/ references pertaining to distilleries, pulp & paper, sugar, textile, dairy, slaughter house and others during the last three years out of which 7 pertain to the sugar industries. The complaints were sent to respective State Pollution Control Boards (SPCBs) and/ or Zonal offices of CPCB. Directions under Section 5 of Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 were issued to Nagar Palikas of Hathras, Aligarh, Sasni and Khalilabad of Uttar Pradesh; Gorakhpur Industrial Development Authority; M/s ITC Paper Mill, Bhadrachalam, Telangana; M/s Mohit Paper Mills, Bijnor, Uttar Pradesh; M/s. Bajaj Hindustan Ltd., Basti, Uttar Pradesh, besides Show Cause notice to M/s. Balrampur Chini Mills Ltd., Balrampur, Uttar Pradesh and Closure directions to M/s Balrampur Chini Mill, Gonda and M/s Balrampur Chini Mill, Balrampur for non-compliance.

(f) This Ministry has formulated and notified standards for sugar industry, which are being enforced by State Pollution Control Boards (SPCBs) and Pollution Control Committees (PCCs) through consent mechanism and regular monitoring. Complaints received are attended to by the SPCBs/PCCs and appropriate directions are issued to the industries concerned. Other steps taken by the Government for controlling pollution in rivers include the following:-

i. Setting up of monitoring network for assessment of water quality;
ii. Issuance of directions under Section 5 of Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 to industries and Municipal Corporations regarding treatment and utilization of effluent for restoration of water quality of river;
iii. Issuance of directions under Section 18(1)(b) of Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Act, 1974 to SPCBs/ PCCs regarding treatment and utilization of sewage;
iv. Preparation of action plan for sewage treatment and restoration of water quality by State Governments;
v. Implementation of National River Conservation Plan (NRCP) for abatement of pollution in identified stretches of various rivers and undertaking conservation activities which inter-alia include interception & diversion of raw sewage, construction of sewerage systems, setting up of sewage treatment plants, low cost sanitation facilities, education, awareness and community participation, electric/improved wood crematoria and river front development, etc.

vi. Installation of Online Effluent Monitoring System by industries to check the discharge of effluent directly into the rivers and water bodies;

****